GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:347
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
INDIAN TERRITORIES UNDER OCCUPATION OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the neighbouring countries which have occupied the Indian Territories as on date indicating the dates from which such occupation is continuing;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the International Organisations has been drawn in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total area of land freed from the occupation of the neighbouring countries till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (e) Sir, a statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement with regard to answer to parts (a)-(e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 347 for answer on 17/04/2002 regarding `Indian Territories under Occupation of Neighbouring Countries`.

China

China illegally occupies approximately 38,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to China.

India and China are seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations.

Pakistan

Pakistan has been illegally occupying approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir since 1947.

Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, India is committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral dialogue.

Bangladesh

There are areas along the India-Bangladesh boundary under physical possession by nationals of the other country than to which the land belongs. These are termed adverse possessions. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India. The Indian enclaves in Bangladesh are sovereign Indian territories.

The 1974 Agreement between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Peoples` Republic of Bangladesh concerning the demarcation of the land boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters, provides for exchange of adverse possessions. The Govt. of India is committed to an early settlement of all boundary-related matters with Bangladesh.

Nepal

The Govt. of Bihar has indicated that an area ofsome 5,000 acres (approximately 20.23 sq.km) of land in Narsahi-Susta area adjoining the Gandak river in West Champaran District has been encroached upon by Nepalese nationals.There is a difference of perception of the boundary alignment between India and Nepal in this area due to the shifting of rivers over the last several decades.

The matter has been discussed with the Government of Nepal on various occasions and is presently under consideration by the Joint

Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee (JTC) constituted to identify and relocate missing boundary pillars and also resolve other ambiguities which may have developed in certain segments due to shifting of rivers etc. Discussions on the management of the border would continue in the Joint Working Group on Border Management and between the two Home Secretaries also.